

Utility Patent Application

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Patent Application based on: Docket No. 00-856
Inventor: Kenneth P. Singleton
Attorney: John D. Gugliotta, P.E., Esq.

DUAL SLEEVED SOCK AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME

RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present invention was first described in Disclosure Document No. 478,625 filed on August 18, 2000. There are no previously filed, nor currently any co-pending applications, anywhere in the world.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to hosiery and, more particularly, to a dual sleeved sock and method of manufacturing the same.

2. Description of the Related Art

Hunters, outdoorsmen, construction workers and others that either work

or partake in activities in the outdoors know all too well of the burdens associated with performing these activities. Any task that needs to be accomplished is made more difficult by the environmental conditions one is working under. Minor annoyances become general aggravations. One of these minor annoyances, usually greeting those who wear boots, are socks that do not do their job. First, socks often fall down into the wearer's boots. The friction and motion of the leg and ankle cause the boot to pull the sock down until it is wrapped around one's ankles. This allows the boot to rub directly against the leg in addition to exposing the leg directly to cold air should it occur in cold weather. The boot wearer must stop their other task to pull the socks back up, which will fall down again in a vicious cycle. Also, foreign objects such as small rocks, dirt, insects, ticks and the like can fall inside the boot creating additional discomfort. Finally, the laces on the boots can be easily snagged by twigs or other objects causing the laces to become untied, thus creating a tripping hazard.

Accordingly, there is a need for a means by which one can wear boots and socks with none of the disadvantages as described above. The development of the dual sleeved sock fulfills this need.

A search of the prior art did not disclose any patents that read directly on the claims of the instant invention; however, the following references were considered related. The following patents disclose the ornamental design for a

shoe collar: U.S. Patent no. **D 412,614** issued in the name of *Lavertue et al.*;
and U.S. Patent no. **D 386,000** issued in the name of *Cretinon*.

U.S. Patent no. **6,018,892** issued in the name of *Acheson et al.* describes
an internal collar device for an article of footwear.

5 U.S. Patent no. **5,943,793** issued in the name of *Clements* discloses a
shoe or boot with an adjustable ankle collar.

U.S. Patent no. **5,885,910** issued in the name of *Graichen* describes a non-slip
knitted lace fabric and method of manufacturing same.

10 U.S. Patent no. **5,867,838** issued in the name of *Corry* discloses a sock
for use with open toe sandal type footwear.

U.S. Patent no. **5,575,013** issued in the name of *Krack* describes an easy-
on sock with an extension flap.

U.S. Patent no. **5,417,091** issued in the name of *Moser* discloses a
reverse pattern turn cuff sock.

15 U.S. Patent no. **4,513,589** issued in the name of *Kearns* describes a sock
with simulated lace edge and method.

Consequently, a need has been felt for providing a device which
compensates for the many inherent disadvantages of the conventional sock and
boot combination in a manner which is quick, easy and efficient.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide socks for boots which utilizes both an inner and outer cuff.

It is another object of the present invention to provide socks for boots which are available in multiple sizes.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide socks for boots which work with all types of boots.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide socks for boots which keep feet and legs warm and comfortable.

It is another object of the present invention to provide socks for boots which can be worn all day long.

It is another object of the present invention to provide socks for boots which are also available in multiple styles to suit different height boots such as ankle high and mid-calf.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an inner cuff which is held against the wearer's leg.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an inner cuff which operates in an identical manner to conventional socks.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an inner cuff which keeps dirt, rocks, ticks, insects and the like off of one's legs.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an outer cuff which folds down over the top of the boot and boot laces.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an outer cuff which keeps dirt, rocks, ticks, insects and the like out of one's boots.

5 It is another object of the present invention to provide an outer cuff which prevents laces from becoming untied and prevents a possible tripping hazard, thereby being safer.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an outer cuff which keeps socks from falling down.

10 It is another object of the present invention to provide a dual sleeved sock which is perfect for hunters, hikers, campers and the like.

15 Briefly described according to one embodiment of the present invention, a dual sleeved sock and method of manufacturing the same is provided which is a pair of socks having two cuffs. One cuff remains on the wearer's leg in a normal fashion, while the other cuff folds down over the wearer's boots. This arrangement has several advantages. First, the socks stay up better and are less prone to slide down the wearer's legs through the course of a day, since the outer cuff is held in place by the boot. Second, foreign objects such as rocks, dirt, ticks and the like cannot enter the wearer's boot or sock area since they are
20 held in close physical contact by one another. Finally, the laces on the wearer's

boots are less likely to become untied since the sock covers them and prohibits them from unfastening and becoming unsafe.

The use of the dual sleeved sock compensates for the many inherent disadvantages of the conventional sock and boot combination in a manner which is quick, easy and efficient.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The advantages and features of the present invention will become better understood with reference to the following more detailed description and claims taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like elements are identified with like symbols, and in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a dual sleeved sock according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a side elevational view thereof shown in use; and

FIG. 3 is a greatly enlarged fragmentary diagrammatic view showing the stitch link pattern of a small area of the cuff and the manner in which it is joined to the elongated centerline of the leg-covering portion according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

1. Detailed Description of the Figures

Referring now to FIGS. 1-3, a dual sleeved sock 10 is shown, according to the present invention, comprised of an inner cuff 15 and a foldable outer cuff 40.

The dual sleeved sock 10, hereinafter referred to as sock 10, is knitted of a cotton material in any of many knit stitch constructions known to one skilled in the hosiery art. It is envisioned that the present invention may also be knitted of a wool material so as to provide a user with a warmer sock 10 as may be required in colder environments.

The inner cuff 15 is defined as having an inner portion 16 of which remains next to a user's skin when worn by the user, and an opposing outer portion 17. The inner and outer portions 16, 17 comprise a foot-covering portion 20 which includes a toe portion 22 and a heel portion 24. The inner and outer portions 16, 17 further comprise a leg-covering portion 30 which includes the foldable, outer cuff 40 formed integrally therewith along a linearly elongated centerline thereof. It is envisioned that the cuff 40 may be fabricated as a separate loop which could be sewn on at a later time. The cuff 40 is designed and configured so as to fold downward in a direction away from the leg-covering portion 30 to the heel portion 24, in such a manner whereby the cuff 40 folds over a top portion of a boot 25 so as to effectively cover upper boot laces.

The cuff 40 includes a selvage makeup 42 formed preferably of several rounds of elastic yarn 43, and a group of courses of suitable knit stitch link

patterns positioned adjacent for fabricating the cuff 40. The resulting functionality of the cuff 40 serves to prevent the entry of dirt, rocks, ticks, insects, and other small objects from entering the user's boots 25. The cuff 40 also serves as a covering shield for preventing boot laces 26 from becoming untied. Exposed boot laces 26 are more susceptible to being snagged by twigs or other objects causing the laces to become untied, thus creating a tripping hazard. The cuff 40 serves as an effective covering shield against such lace snagging objects for preventing not only the laces 26 from becoming untied, but also aiding in preventing a tripping injury occurring therefrom.

The cuff 40 further serves to prevent the sock 10 from sliding down the user's leg and into the boot 25 through the course of the day. Typically, friction and motion of a leg and ankle when walking cause the boot 25 to pull the sock 10 down. Being folded over the top portion of the boot, the cuff 40 is frictionally held thereto via the selvage makeup 42, thus the cuff 40 aids in making the sock 10 less apt to sliding down the user's leg and into the boot.

It is envisioned that the sock 10 would be available in multiple styles and sizes to suit boots of different heights including but not limited to ankle high and mid-calf.

2. Detailed Description of Method of Knitting

5 The sock 10 of the present invention is knit on a circular hosiery knitting machine which has a single set of needles. The selvage makeup 42 is formed by interlacing the rounds of yarn 43 in alternate needles for forming an initial knit stitch link pattern. Preferably a single round of yarn 44 is then knitted on all needles so as to form a desired remaining group of courses of suitable knit stitch link patterns making up the cuff 40. A desired number of courses of suitable knit stitch link patterns are knitted so as to form the desired length of the leg-covering portion 30 and the foot-covering portion 20 by feeding the yarn 44 to all needles so that an identical suitable knit stitch link pattern is formed.

10 Upon completion of the knitting of a final course of the inner portion 16, the leg-covering portion 30 and the foot-covering portion 20 are knitted by feeding yarn 44 to all needles so that the identical suitable knit stitch link pattern are formed, thereby automatically integrally knitting the cuff 40 to the linearly elongated centerline of the leg-covering portion 30. The foot-covering portion 20 is then knitted utilizing the identical suitable knit stitch link pattern heretofore utilized. An opening at the toe portion 22 is closed via a closure seam 50.

15 3. Operation of the Preferred Embodiment

20 To use the present invention, the user simply pulls the present invention over his foot and over his lower leg area in a manner identical to putting on any

typical pair of socks. After putting on a pair of boots 25, the user simply folds the outer cuff 40 down so as to effectively cover the boot laces 26. The outer cuff 40 will be maintained in such position via the selvage makeup 42. The outer cuff 40 serves the user with the following functional features: prevents the entry of dirt, rocks, ticks, insects, and other small objects from entering the user's boots 25; serves as a covering shield for preventing boot laces 26 from becoming untied, thus aiding in preventing a tripping injury occurring therefrom; and prevents the socks 10 from sliding down the user's leg and into the boot 25 through the course of the day.

The use of the present invention compensates for the many inherent disadvantages of the conventional sock and boot combination in a manner which is quick, easy and efficient.

Therefore, the foregoing description is included to illustrate the operation of the preferred embodiment and is not meant to limit the scope of the invention. As one can envision, an individual skilled in the relevant art, in conjunction with the present teachings, would be capable of incorporating many minor modifications that are anticipated within this disclosure. Therefore, the scope of the invention is to be broadly limited only by the following claims.